

University of Mississippi

eGrove

---

Correspondence

Citizens' Council Collection

---

1-29-1957

## Letter from Robert B. Patterson to Paul

Robert B. Patterson

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/citizens\\_corresp](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/citizens_corresp)



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Patterson, Robert B., "Letter from Robert B. Patterson to Paul" (1957). *Correspondence*. 9.  
[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/citizens\\_corresp/9](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/citizens_corresp/9)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Citizens' Council Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).



C O P Y

## ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS

OF MISSISSIPPI

STATES' RIGHTS

RACIAL INTEGRITY

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

January 29, 1957

STATE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
AND OFFICERS

WILL E. WARD  
STARKVILLE  
JOHN B. CUNNINGHAM  
BROOKSVILLE  
N. E. DACUS  
TUPELO  
SHELBY WOODWARD  
LOUISVILLE  
Z. M. VEAZEY, JR.  
COLDWATER  
W. H. ANDERSON  
RIPLEY  
BEN JACK HILBUN  
OXFORD  
JOHN TABOR  
WINONA  
A. E. BRITT  
INDIANOLA  
WILBURN HOOKER  
LEXINGTON  
FRED JONES  
INVERNESS  
PETE WILLIAMS, SR.  
CLARKSDALE  
TOM P. BRADY  
BROOKHAVEN  
NICK ROBERTS  
YAZOO CITY  
CLAY TUCKER  
WOODVILLE  
ELLIS W. WRIGHT  
JACKSON  
BILL JOHNSON  
DECATUR  
R. C. BRADSHAW  
PEARL  
H. H. HARPOLE  
PHILADELPHIA  
MARION SIMPSON  
CANTON  
DEWEY MEYERS  
PRENTISS  
WARD HURT  
LUMBERTON  
ROBERT OSWALT  
PASCAGOULA  
J. E. STOCKSTILL  
PICAYUNE  
R. P. PARISH  
STATE TREASURER  
PRES. BANK OF GREENWOOD  
GREENWOOD  
ELLETT LAWRENCE  
FINANCE CHAIRMAN  
GREENWOOD  
ROBERT B. PATTERSON  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
GREENWOOD  
W. J. SIMMONS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
605 PLAZA BUILDING  
JACKSON

Mr. Paul R. Davis  
911 Commercial Building  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Dear Paul:

I certainly appreciate your sending me the copy of your letter to Sam Engelhardt, with reference to Ace Carter.

I certainly agree with you that Ace Carter is a problem for the people of Alabama. There will, however, be more Ace Carters and John Kaspers, and more acts of violence. We must prepare our membership and set policy to meet these situations before they arise.

I remember that less than two years ago, all was not peaceful in Mississippi, as it is now. Then we were in the midst of the infamous Till case and constant harassment from the F.B.I. From North, South, East and West, from enemies and from friends, came advice, denunciation and all manner of suggestions. With patient organization and education, peace and good order were finally restored to Mississippi.

In a movement of this size, it is to be expected that certain crackpots, fanatics and misguided patriots will mistake notoriety for support, and will do and say things that will certainly not express the opinion, or be sanctioned by Council members in general.

Sam Engelhardt has many times, in public, stated clearly and unequivocally, that neither he nor his organization had any connection whatsoever with Ace Carter. The press has carried these statements. We, here in Mississippi, have given Sam's statements wide publicity, and have educated our people to the fact that the various local and State Citizens' Councils can no more be responsible for some misguided individual, than I, as a Methodist, can be responsible for another Methodist standing on a street corner in Brooklyn, New York.

Of course, the opposition pounces on Ace Carter's actions, and attempts to defame the Citizens' Councils. I do not believe Ace Carter has hurt us here in Mississippi, because our people understand the organization of the Citizens' Council.

In my opinion, Sam Engelhardt has handled the situation in the only way that he could, under tremendous pressure and difficulties.

Here in Mississippi, we seek to play down individuals, who are subject to human mistakes, and to play up the organization and the cause. Mississippi, I might add, has not had one single school, or bus suit, and all is peaceful and serene with regard to racial issues. There has been no sign of the Ku Klux Klan anywhere in Mississippi.

If fanatics or crackpots will hurt our organization the opposition can find them in unlimited numbers, and they will be given wide publicity. If outbreaks of violence reflect upon the Citizens' Council, it will be a simple matter for the NAACP, and enemies of the South, to provide violence. We cannot take the defensive and become apologists for every crackpot and act of violence that will occur in the South.

The NAACP never apologizes for its rapists, its fanatics, or its Communists. To do so would imply guilt.

Our members know that our Councils have prevented violence, and will continue to do so, here in Mississippi. Integration, with its accompanying frustration, will definitely cause violence in Mississippi, or any place else in the South. That is why we organized against integration; to prevent violence.

If violence occurs, the responsibility rests solely on the United States Supreme Court. We must get this fact across to, first, our own membership, and then to this entire Nation.

Sincerely,  
(Signed) ROBERT B. PATTERSON  
Secretary  
Citizens' Council

RBP:mt  
cc: To whom it may concern